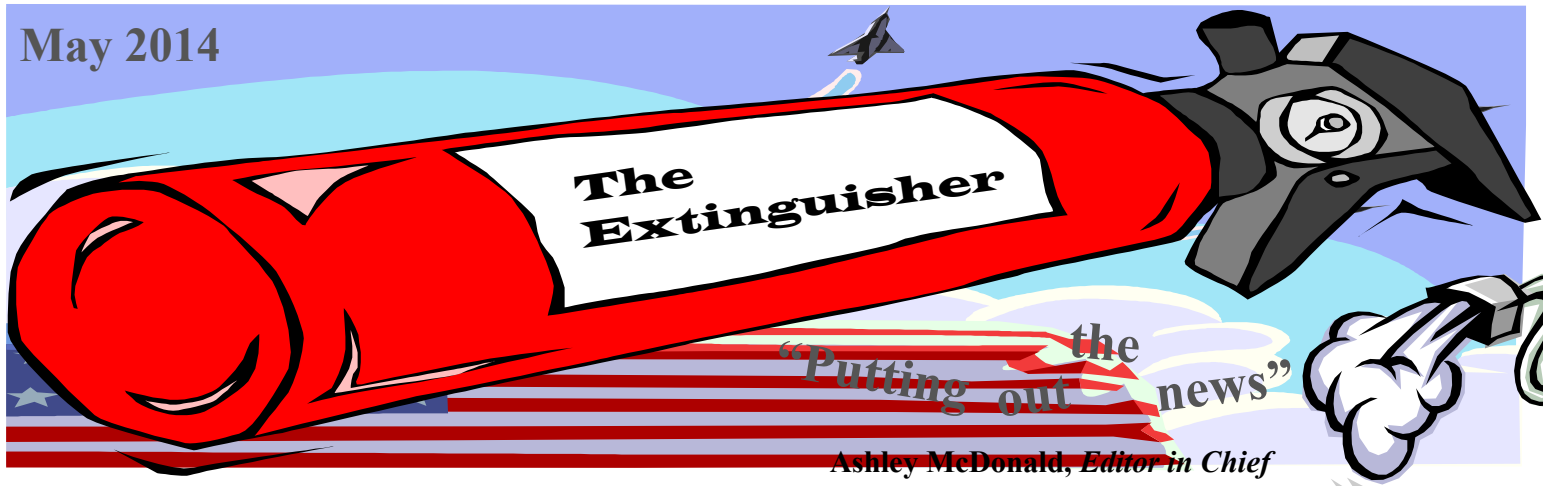


May 2014



Ashley McDonald, Editor in Chief



Birthdays

Sam Benford 5/1
Ashley McGriff 5/3
Ray Robinson 5/4
Allan Debowsky 5/5
Jacob Follis 5/5
Josh Oliver 5/6
Steve Melton 5/7
Chris Mikolon 5/8
Kyle Winnett 5/9
Doug Rivait 5/13
Jeff Day 5/19
Ronnie Nobles 5/20
Kenneth Richmond 5/23
Al Jakes 5/24
Bo Jones 5/25
Justin Lewis 5/25
Troy Tayse 5/25
Nell Spradling 5/26
Brent Stephens 5/27
Collins Harrelson 5/30
Eddie Mitchell 5/30

City Holiday

MFRD's Administrative Office
will be closed on
Monday, May 26, 2014
in observance of
Memorial Day.

If you need immediate assistance,
contact MFRD Headquarters
At 615-849-2661.

KIM LAWSON NAMED NEW ASSISTANT CHIEF OF MEDICAL SERVICES

Kim Lawson has been named Murfreesboro Fire & Rescue Department's new Assistant Chief of Medical Services. She will begin employment on May 5.

Lawson recently retired from the Nashville Fire Department after a thirty-four (34) year career. Her career began in 1979 as an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) and she rose through the ranks to become a Paramedic District Chief and Assistant Chief of EMS, managing the emergency response of a staff of ambulances, and EMTs and Paramedics throughout the city.

Lawson served in the EMS Bureau for twenty-two (22) years before joining former Fire Chief Steve Halfords's senior staff at Fire Headquarters. Lawson served as the Public Information Officer and managed the Community Services Bureau which included public information, public fire education and community risk reduction and was promoted to a Deputy Chief in 2003, the first female to ever hold the rank within the Nashville Fire Department.

Lawson has participated and managed several large scale emergencies including EMS manager for the Tornado of 1998, Information Manager for the notable NHC Nursing Home fire, and served as the Joint Information Center Manager for the Flood of 2010. She has been interviewed on several national networks and brings to Murfreesboro an abundance of emergency management training, certifications, and experience.

Lawson has been publically recognized for her information management of the flood event, and additionally for her work in public education which resulted in the lowest fire fatality rates in the history of the department. She also contributed to a Public Access Defibrillator and CPR in Schools program which resulted in Nashville Mayor Karl Dean receiving a prestigious award from the American Heart Association for being the first city in Tennessee to be a "Heart Ready City." The program enabled the placement of AEDs (Automated External Defibrillators) in more than half of all Metro buildings as well as CPR training for the employees and high school students.

A Nashville native, Lawson is a licensed Paramedic, obtained from the University of Tennessee, holds an Associate of Science degree in Paramedic Technology from Volunteer State Community College, a Bachelor of Science degree in Public Safety Administration from Grand Canyon University, and has completed the Fire Service Executive Management Program at Owen School of Management at Vanderbilt. Additionally, she has been certified by several nationally recognized organizations as a Public Life Safety Educator, and media relations professional.



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LAWSON CONTINUED...

"I am honored to join Chief Gaines and the Murfreesboro Fire & Rescue Department and I feel very privileged to be given an opportunity to contribute to the growth of the emergency medical services in one of the fastest growing cities in the country," said Lawson. "I am looking forward to joining a life-saving team who makes it clear that the safety of the residents and visitors is priority!"

Assistant Chief-Medical Services Position

Murfreesboro's City Council approved the addition of an Assistant Chief-Medical Services to MFRD's administrative staff on January 16, 2014. The position was created as part of a process that will allow MFRD to provide a higher level of medical care to the residents and visitors to the City of Murfreesboro. MFRD worked very closely with the City Manager and Assistant City Manager, as well as the City's Legal and Human Resources Departments for several months, to develop a plan for expanding the scope of practice of the department's first-responder service so that it more closely reflects the licensure, credentialing, and training of department personnel. MFRD plans to increase the level of First Responder to Basic Life Support (BLS).

The Assistant Chief-Medical Services will work with city leaders, MFRD administrative staff and shift personnel, as well as Rutherford County Emergency Medical Services to facilitate the changes associated with this new service.

MFRD'S HONOR GUARD TAKES SECOND PLACE IN FDIC NATIONAL HONOR GUARD CHAMPIONSHIP

Murfreesboro Fire & Rescue Department's Honor Guard placed second in the annual National Honor Guard Competition at the Fire Department Instructors Conference (FDIC) in Indianapolis, Indiana April 11.

The team, competing against seven other teams from across the nation, participated in details such as Full Dress Inspection, Posting of the Colors, Casket Watch (posting guard at a casket), and Flag-Folding. According to MFRD Honor Guard Coordinator Jeff Irvin, the team that came in second last year, Broward County Sheriff's Office/Fire Department from Florida, took first place in this year's competition. "It was a tight race," said Irvin.

Team members were Captain/Shift Inspectors Thomas McAdoo, Nora Smith, and Wade Williams, Captain Jeff Irvin, Driver Randy Shaw, and Firefighters Greg Burt, Chad Davis, and Andy Smithson.



The team received a trophy and \$1,000 uniform voucher from Marlow White Uniform Company to use toward future uniform purchases. They will present the trophy to Chief Cumbe Gaines during a modest ceremony on May 6.

"The team was named National Honor Guard Champions for the last two years and finishing second is no small accomplishment considering the caliber of competition," said Chief Gaines. "I am just as proud of the team this year as I was last year. These men and women work hard

to represent MFRD and the City of Murfreesboro in a professional and elite manner."

MFRD's Honor Guard presents colors at several events throughout the year including conferences, Memorial Day, Veterans Day, and 9/11 Remembrance Ceremonies, etc. If you would like more information about the MFRD Honor Guard, please contact Fire & Rescue Administration at 615-893-1422.



Pictured at Top Right: (L to R): Honor Guard members are Greg Burt, Wade Williams, Randy Shaw, Thomas McAdoo, Andy Smithson, Jeff Irvin, Nora Smith, and Chad Davis.

Congratulations Firefighters Chad Davis and Rob Odom



**Rob also recently obtained his
Fire Instructor I Certification*

Newly certified EMT-IVs!!!

ROWLAND NAMED TELECOMMUNICATOR OF THE YEAR

The Murfreesboro Police Department's Communication Center honored local public safety Telecommunicators, the "first" first responders, during National Telecommunicators Week (April 14-18). National Emergency Telecommunicators Week was started in 1981 to put a special focus on public safety telecommunications professionals for their contributions to the safety and security of communities around the world.

To honor the City's Telecommunicators, the Murfreesboro Police Department held a ceremony April 16 in the MPD Communications Center. Mayor Tommy Bragg presented a proclamation to officials with the Police Department and the Fire and Rescue Department, who also share the Communications Section. Mayor Bragg stated, "It is a tremendous honor to recognize Dispatcher Rowland and all of the Telecommunicators for the great work they do every day. This is their day, their week to be recognized."

Chief of Police Glenn Chrisman stated: "This Communications Center answered over 39,000 9-1-1 calls in 2013, making this the busiest Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) in Rutherford County. Furthermore, Dispatchers answered 243,503 telephone calls, dispatching Police Officers or Firefighters to a call over 100,000 times. We are very proud of the work they do here every day."



Deputy Fire Chief Roger Toombs commented, "It's always nice when we can recognize the Telecommunicators during this special week. We are able to put a face with the voice that is on the other end of the radio. We absolutely cannot do our job without them."

Dispatcher Michelle Rowland was also recognized at the ceremony for being awarded the Dispatcher of the Year Award. Rowland was chosen in part because of her team player attitude and always going the extra mile to help citizens. She also represented the MPD at the annual Telecommunicator of the Year awards breakfast hosted by the Rutherford County Emergency Communications District.

MFRD URGES CITIZENS OF MURFREESBORO TO CHECK SMOKE DETECTORS

In April, a community in Murfreesboro devastatingly lost an elderly female to a house fire. The house had no working smoke detectors. MFRD is urging citizens to make sure their homes are equipped with the right amount of working detectors.

"Having working smoke detectors in your home can mean the difference between life and death," said Assistant Fire Marshal Tracy Summar. "Smoke detectors save lives every single day. It is imperative that you have working smoke detectors in your home, change the batteries at least every six months, and test them monthly," he continued.

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SMOKE DETECTORS CONTINUED...

MFRD's Project SAFE "Smoke Alarms for Everyone" program allows firefighters to install smoke detectors in your home free of charge. The department also offers specialized smoke detectors for the hearing or visually impaired.

"Over the next few weeks, the community can expect to see MFRD personnel in their neighborhoods, going door to door to see if smoke detectors are needed," said Assistant Fire Marshal Carl Peas. "Our ultimate goal is the safety of our citizens."

If you live in the city limits of Murfreesboro and are in need of smoke detectors, need your batteries changed, or just need more information, please contact MFRD at 615-893-1422.

PENNINGTON NAMED FIREFIGHTER OF THE MONTH

Firefighter Joe Pennington was named Firefighter of the Month for May 2014 for his assistance with equipping the two new heavy rescues. Joe took on the responsibility of ordering, organizing, and acting as liaison between the department and equipment vendors for purchasing all the equipment for the rescues. This has been a long, labor-intensive process.



Pennington has been with the department since March 2004.

NEW HEAVY RESCUES TO MAKE APPEARANCE SOON

Representatives from Murfreesboro Fire & Rescue Department's Apparatus Specs Committee recently attended a final inspection of the two new heavy rescues at the EVI Plant in West Palm Beach, Florida. "The two trucks are expected to be delivered to MFRD in May and should be fully equipped by the end of the month," said Shift Commander Dale Maynard.

The new rescues will be assigned to the department's two Special Operations stations, Station 7 located on North Thompson Lane and Station 9 on Cason Lane. A special ceremony to reveal the new trucks will be announced at a later date.

Here's a sneak peak of the trucks!!!



May Anniversaries

40 YEARS
Billy Vinson

26 YEARS
Lee Douglas

17 YEARS
Richard Crick

16 YEARS
Greg Burt
Thomas McAdoo
Terry Smith

13 YEARS
Randy Shaw

6 YEARS
Kernie Cothran
William Durkin
Zach Fleenor
Jonathan Gaither
Jeremy Morris
Jason Norris
Rob Odom
Josh Parsons
Jon Parsons
Sean Wheeler



If you notice MFRD personnel providing exemplary service, displaying professionalism, or representing the City of Murfreesboro in a positive light, please share your experience by nominating them for a Service Excellence Stars Award.

Click here for more information or to [Nominate a STAR.](#)